

by three steps, at which the people receive the Eueh-  
 aristic elements. Through the arch is dimly seen the  
 altar, over which is a stone canopy, or "*baldachino*," sup-  
 ported on four pillars. In the sacristy is a narrow but  
 deep font, in which the infant is baptized by being  
 dipped in the water up to the knees at the name of the  
 Father, up to the waist at the name of the Son, and  
 wholly immersed at the name of the Holy Ghost, the  
 priest repeating, "Thou art baptized in the name of the  
 Father, Amen, and of the Son, Amen, and of the Holy  
 Ghost, Amen." Before the rite the infant's forehead is  
 anointed with oil in the church, and it is completely  
 anointed in the baptistery before being plunged into the  
 font. Every infant has two god-parents, who act as  
 sponsors at its subsequent marriage. These persons by  
 undertaking this office are placed in a relationship of  
 affinity close enough to be a bar to marriage. After the  
 baptism the child is confirmed in the nave with oil and  
 the imposition of the priest's hands, and after being very  
 tightly bound up in its swaddling clothes is handed to the  
 god-parents. Infant communion is the rule of the Church,  
 but the elements are rarely received at the time of baptism.  
 Baptism is only valid when celebrated by a priest and  
 in a consecrated church. Private baptisms are unlawful,  
 but there is a form of prayer appointed for use if a child  
 is dangerously ill, during which the priest signs a basin  
 of water with the sign of the Cross, saying, "In the

strength of our Lord may this water be of  
blessing in  
the name," etc. The mother afterwards  
bathes the child  
in the water, and if it dies they " trust it to  
the mercy  
of God." If it recovers it must be taken to  
church to be  
baptized in the usual manner. The Holy  
Communion,  
the *Kourbana*, ought by rule to precede  
baptism in the  
very early morning, and the baptismal rite  
ought to be  
administered on the eighth day, but it is  
often postponed